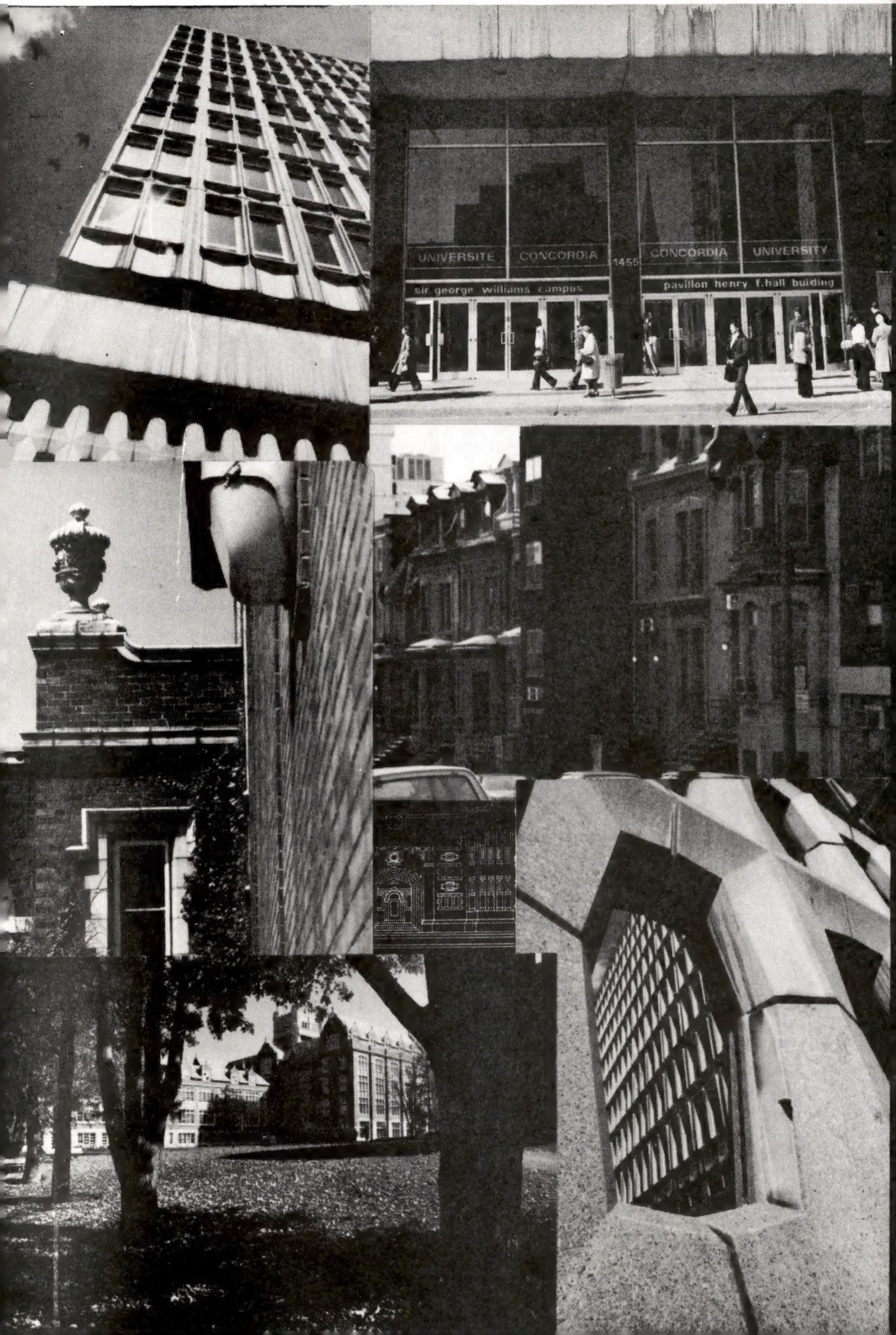


INTERNATIONAL STUDENT NEWLETTER



DEC.  
'64

Vol. V  
No II

As the new International Student Adviser, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a belated "welcome back" to the International student community at Concordia. Since my arrival in October, I have had the occasion to meet many students at the various club functions or at the Dean of Students Office.

With the January term quickly ensuing, I would like to extend a 'warm' welcome to the new students who will be starting their programmes at Concordia. As there is no formal orientation session for International students in January, I would encourage all new students to drop by my Office during the first two weeks in January, and, I would encourage all students to attend the various workshops which will be held throughout the Winter term. These workshops will be extremely beneficial to both "old and new" students.

As most of you are aware, Miss Elizabeth Morey left the Dean of Students Office as the International Student Adviser in July 1984. Her commitment as an International Student Adviser to students was appreciated by all. I am sure all International students wish her the very best in her future endeavours. Included in the Newsletter is a tribute to Elizabeth by Mr. Hector Gérard.

In closing, I would like to wish all students a very Happy Holiday Season from the Dean of Students Office staff and myself. We look forward to seeing you at the various workshops and functions in the New Year. Have a good Year!

*Fred Francis*

Mr. Frederick Francis is available to assist you with any problem you may encounter. He is located at:

2135 Mackay Street  
Annex M106  
Sir George Williams Campus  
Telephone: 879-2840

DROP-IN BASIS OFFICE HOURS - 1985 WINTER TERM

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Fridays, 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

If, however, you wish to discuss specific problems with the International Student Adviser, all students are encouraged to schedule an appointment on Wednesdays.

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION SERIES

International students are well aware of the high differential fees which they must pay for an education in Québec. In response to this, the International Student Adviser, in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office, of which he is a member, has initiated a number of workshops throughout this term for International students to help "stretch your dollar" while in Canada. These workshops are designed to inform students of how to use existing university services, plan and manage your finances and academic life more effectively. The workshops DO NOT guarantee a solution to your problems, but rather, provide students with a forum to discuss their problems and discover realistic solutions to problems. It is in your best interest to attend these workshops.

Our first workshop held last November was a tremendous success. 100% of the students who attended the workshop and completed the questionnaire found the session informative and beneficial.

The schedule of Workshops for the 1985 Winter term are as follows:

Date: Friday, January 25, 1984  
 Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
 Place: Oasis Lounge, Campus Centre  
 Loyola Campus  
 Topics: Medical Health Insurance Plan  
 Housing - Residence and Off-Campus  
 What it is all about. Advantages and  
 Disadvantages.

This is of interest to both Graduate and Undergraduate students.

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 1985  
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Place: To be announced  
Topic: Preparing and Managing Your Personal Budget.

This is for both International and Canadian students.

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Date: Friday, February 15, 1985  
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Hall Building 762, SGW Campus  
Topic: Academic Problems? Faculty Advisers will be present to answer your questions.

Undergraduate students ONLY.

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Date: Tuesday, March 5, 1985  
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: To be announced  
Topic: Managing Credit Cards, Students Loans. A financial consultant will be present to give tips on how to save and invest your money wisely.

This is of interest to both International and Canadian students.

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Date: Tuesday, March 12, 1985  
Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Place: To be announced  
Topic: A Question of Taxes, Preparing your Income Tax. A tax expert will be present to answer questions concerning personal Income Tax reports.

Of interest to Graduate and Undergraduate International students who have working permits, as well as Canadians.

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Date: Friday, March 22, 1985  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Place: Room 762, Hall Building, SGW Campus  
Topic: Immigration. What you need to know. Some changes for September in

updating your visa.

This workshop is for both Graduate and Undergraduate students.

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BOURSE DE DROITS DE SCOLARITE

1984-1985

The Registrar's Office has asked us to remind students that if you have received a "bourse de droits de scolarité" for 1984-85, you must re-apply to your embassy for an extension for the 1985-86 academic year.

Please verify with your embassy as to the submission deadline for your extension.

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MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS

If you have not picked up your Medical Health Insurance card, please do so by the end of January 1985. Cards are available on either campus.

Dean of Students Office  
Ad 121, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West  
Loyola Campus

Dean of Students Office  
2135 Mackay Street, Annex M201  
Sir George Williams Campus

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This edition of the International Student Newsletter is being mailed to you this month ONLY. The 1985 Spring edition can be obtained at The Dean of Students Office on both campuses, the Information Centre on the Main Floor in the Hall Building, at the Arts and Science Faculty departments as well as those of Commerce and Engineering, and other strategic places.

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### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CORNER

The following students have won awards for either the Government of Canada or the Botswana Scholarship Programme. Competition for these awards are keen and the holders of these awards are distinguished by the World University Service of Canada as International (WUSC) scholars.

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Programme</u>
Jacques BUREAU	M.Sc. in Biology
Noriko IWASAKI	M. A. in Communication Studies
Michael OLIVER	B. A. in Journalism
Oshinka TSIANG	B. A. in Journalism

We extend our very best to these International scholars.

If there are any other award winners who have not been listed, please contact the International Student Office so that we may include your name in our next Newsletter.

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### A REMINDER

TO ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS Please submit your articles and announcements for the 1985 Spring edition of the International Student Newsletter by MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1985.

If there are individual students who wish to contribute to the Newsletter, please leave your material at the International Student Office, Annex M102. Your contributions would be welcome.

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ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.  
 8 South Michigan Avenue  
 Chicago, Illinois 60603

International Grants-in-Aid

The Altrusa International Foundation, Inc., provides grants to female foreign students for graduate study on the basis of the criteria and procedures indicated below. Grants-in-Aid may be made up to a maximum of \$1,000.00, but usually are for considerably less. They are not intended to finance a full program of education; instead, they are intended to serve as emergency funds only. A student must have means for taking care of the major portion of her educational expenses before applying for an Altrusa Grants-in-Aid. Preference will be given to women studying in fields that will aid in the social, economic, or educational development of their countries.

Criteria for Eligibility for  
 Altrusa International Foundation Grants-in-Aid

To be eligible to make application, a student must:

1. Not have received a previous grant from the Altrusa International Foundation.
2. Be a citizen of a Latin-American, Asian, Middle-Eastern, African, Polynesian or Melanesian Country (those from territories of the United States are not eligible).
3. Be enrolled as a full-time graduate student or a supervised research worker at the graduate student level. There are no exceptions.
4. Have satisfactorily completed AT LEAST ONE HALF of her graduate study program in the institution from which she is applying.
5. Be pursuing this study program in an accredited graduate school in a country other than her own in which there is an Altrusa Club, and must already be in that country.
6. Be in need of emergency funds for direct educational expenses. (Altrusa funds may not be used for travel, except as required by the University specifically for the academic program).
7. Have definite plans to return to her home country and enter employment there within a year of completion of her studies.

For further information please contact the International Student Adviser, 2135 Mackay Street, Annex M, Room 106, telephone number 879-2840.

## LE DÉPART D'ELIZABETH MOREY

Quiconque a déjà travaillé avec Elizabeth Morey, conseillère des étudiants au bureau du doyen des étudiants, ou l'a seulement côtoyée, peut vous dire à quel point elle - et à travers elle son entourage tout entier - rayonnait d'enthousiasme lorsqu'il s'agissait de s'occuper des affaires étudiantes, qui prenaient une place considérable dans sa vie.

Aujourd'hui qu'elle a démissionné sans laisser de traces palpables à ceux ou celles qui l'avaient connue de près, il devient difficile d'admettre une telle disparition et un tel vide, qui seront sans aucun doute difficiles également à combler.

Elizabeth ne travaillait pas seulement pour le bien des étudiants directement avec eux, elle le faisait également avec tous ceux ou celles dont la tâche visait à l'amélioration du sort des étudiants.

Que ce soit au niveau des associations étudiantes telles que CUSA (Concordia University Students Association ) ou IEAC (International Ethnic Associations Council) et surtout à son bureau comme conseillère des étudiants sur la rue Mackay, sa présence était toujours amplement remarquée et nombreux étaient

ceux qui venaient souvent la consulter pour son énorme expérience et son grand entregent.

Sa personnalité était devenue presque un mythe au point où maintes fois on avait l'impression qu'il manquait quelque chose dans une situation si celle-ci ne portait pas aussi son empreinte. Et pourtant elle conseillait toujours aux gens de prendre l'habitude de se débrouiller tout seuls, mais une fois le dos tourné elle oubliait déjà cet avertissement et mettait également la main à la pâte.

Travailleuse infatigable, cette courageuse jeune femme qui encourageait les étudiants à s'impliquer davantage dans la vie et les organisations étudiantes, celle dont la devise était d'être "actif en tout temps", celle qui défendait les étudiants au risque de ruiner sa santé et qui buvait café après café, était-elle arrivée au bout de son boulot abattue par la fatigue ou se sentait-elle tout simplement dépassée par les circonstances?

Quiconque a connu Elizabeth Morey ne peut que retenir la première hypothèse, car elle n'avait aucunement peur de travailler et aimait également à relever les défis.

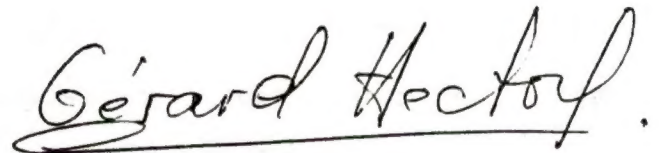
Espérons toutefois que sa décision de laisser la vie étudiante ne sera que passagère, car qui d'autre qu'elle peut dans le moment faire rayonner avec autant d'ardeur les idéaux de justice, d'équité

de progrès et de respect pour les étudiants?

Non en vérité, celui-là ou celle-là n'existe pas encore du moins n'a pas encore fait suffisamment ses preuves. Car on imite quelqu'un comme Elizabeth Morey, mais on ne la remplace pas.

Si, comme le veut le dicton, nul n'est irremplaçable, soyez d'ores et déjà assurés du fait que procéder à son remplacement dans les prochains jours ne sera pas chose facile.

En terminant, nous lui souhaitons bon succès dans toutes ses entreprises.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gérard Hector". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Gérard Hector

13 août 1984

CLASSES RESUME: Classes resume for the 1985 Winter Term on Monday, January 7, 1985.

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LEGAL AID: Students requiring legal aid may take their problems to Legal Aid Services on either campus. This service is advisory and referrals will be made where required. An appointment to see a lawyer may be made by calling the Dean of Students Office, 879-5981 (SGW, M202), or by calling Nancy Bolton, the University lawyer, at 482-0320, local 512 (Loyola campus, AD302).

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OMBUDSMAN: Helping people in conflict - that is what the University Ombudsman is all about. If you find yourself in a disagreement with an office, a department or an individual within the University, you can call Suzanne Belson, at 879-4247, on the Sir George Williams campus.

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TELEPHONE AND TYPING FACILITIES: These are available at the Loyola campus in the Dean of Students Office, AD121. Typing facilities ONLY are available on the Sir George Williams campus at the Graduate Students Association, 2160 Bishop Street and at CUSA, Hall Building, Room 637.

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TRAVEL: One can visit the various regions of Québec and other Canadian provinces, even on a small budget, by hitch-hiking, sharing the rental of a car with friends or by taking advantage of special rates on the buses and trains.

Tourbec Incorporated  
1440 St. Denis Street, telephone: 288-4455  
(student tourist bureau, International  
student card)

Tourisme Québec  
2 Place Ville-Marie, telephone: 873-2015  
(to obtain a free map of Québec and brochures  
about the various regions)

Travel Resource Centres at Concordia University  
6931 Sherbrooke Street West, telephone: 482-6724 or  
482-6915 - Loyola campus

Sir George Williams campus  
Hall Building, Room 508-2, telephone 879-8490

# GENERAL INFORMATION

UNITED STATES: International students wishing to travel to the United States for a brief visit must obtain a visitor's visa from the American Consulate at Complex Desjardins, Main Floor, South Tower, Room 28, telephone: 281-1886. The required documents are a letter of attestation from the University, a student authorization (visa), a valid passport, and one picture.

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 7 to 15-----	Course change (tentative)
January 15-----	Last day for Spring Graduation Applications
January 16 and 17-----	Late Registration (tentative)
February 1-----	Last day for Application for Late Completion for Fall courses
February 1-----	Last day for Applications for Supplemental examinations for Graduating students
February 16-----	Supplemental Exams (Fall Term) for Graduating students only
February 18 to 22-----	MIDTERM BREAK
March 1-----	Pre-registration begins, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
April 1-----	Last day for submission of Late Completion work for Fall 1984 courses
April 1-----	Good Friday, University CLOSED
April 1-----	Easter Monday, University CLOSED
April 13-----	Last day of classes (Regular Session)
April 13 to May 1-----	EXAMINATION PERIOD

For further information, please get in touch with Registrar's Services: CC-214, Loyola campus, 482-0320, local, 681  
N-107, Sir George Williams campus, 879-2810

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### DRESSING FOR WINTER

Cold Canadian winters often come as a shock to visitors from warmer climates. Low temperatures are even more uncomfortable when the wind is blowing. During cold weather reports you will hear about the "wind chill factor." Wind chill is the temperature of still air that would have the same effect on exposed skin as a given combination of wind speed and air temperature. The lower the air temperature and the stronger the wind, the lower the wind chill factor:

Thermostat (C) Temperature	At 25 KMPH Temp. Equals	At 50 KMPH Temp. Equals	At 65 KMPH and over Temp. Equals
- 1	- 11	- 19	- 20
- 6	- 21	- 28	- 30
- 12	- 27	- 36	- 38
- 17	- 36	- 45	- 48
- 23	- 42	- 52	- 56
- 28	- 51	- 61	- 65
- 34	- 56	- 70	- 74
- 40	- 65	- 78	- 82

Proper clothing can reduce the discomfort caused by cold weather. Here are some suggestions:

A. Wear several layers of lighter clothing rather than one or two heavy layers. Several lightweight, loose layers will keep you warmer than one heavy layer because air trapped between the layers will be heated by the body and serve as insulation against the cold. Men, for example, can wear an undershirt, shirt, and a sweater or jacket; women can wear tights or hose and knee socks under slacks. In extremely cold weather some people wear "long underwear" (available at clothing and camping stores) under their clothes, and two pairs of mittens or gloves, and two pairs of socks. Coats or jackets with a lining are warmer than unlined garments because of the additional layer.

Another advantage of wearing several layers of clothing is that extra layers can be removed indoors, where rooms may be quite warm.

B. The type of fabric used in a garment can also affect its warmth.

1. More absorbent fabrics, by allowing perspiration and body moisture to evaporate from the skin, keep you warmer. Natural fibers such as cotton and wool are the most absorbent and, therefore, the warmest fibers. The fiber content of a garment is printed on a label attached to each garment sold in Canada, so, when you are buying clothes, you can see what they are made of.

2. The weight of a fabric is not necessarily related to its warmth, but its thickness is. Thickly constructed fabrics (knits, pile fabrics such as fake furs, quilted, laminated or bonded fabrics and thick tweeds) provide greater insulation and thus keep you warmer. Jackets filled with goose down, originally worn mainly for winter camping and hunting, have become very popular in recent years, although very lightweight, they provide more warmth than many jackets that are made of much heavier materials.

3. Garment design also affects insulation. Tight clothing does not keep you warmer. It actually inhibits blood circulation, so the body cannot warm itself as efficiently, and also provides less chance for warm air to be trapped in the clothing for insulation. Garments, however, should fit tightly at the wrists, ankles, neck and waist to prevent warm air from escaping. Ribbed or buttoned cuffs are warmer than open sleeves; turtleneck collars are warmer than open collars; knee socks or tights are warmer than ankle-length socks; thick-soled boots are warmer than shoes; pants are warmer than skirts. A belt at the waist or a tucked-in blouse or shirt helps trap warm air at that area of the body.

C. In general, it is prudent when you must be outside during very cold weather to leave as few areas of the body exposed as possible. Always wear a hat as approximately forty per cent (40%) of your body heat escapes from the top of your head. Boots should be lined and are more water proof if they are not leather or suede. On very windy winter days, it is advisable to wear slacks rather than skirts, a long coat rather than a short jacket, gloves, a hat which covers your ears (or a coat with a hood), and a scarf covering your mouth and nose.

With thanks to the University of Iowa, 1983, from  
Handbook for Foreign Students and Professionals

康戈比亞大學中國同學會



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

## CHINESE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE OF CHINESE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

84 - 85

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sept., 84	Orientation
Oct.	Chinese Cultural Exhibition
Oct.	Halloween Party
Nov.	Badminton Tournament
Dec.	Christmas Party
Jan., 85	Ski Trip
Jan.	Variety Show
Feb.	Chinese New Year Banquet
Feb.	Winter Carnival Tour
Mar.	Annual General Meeting
Jun.	Farewell Picnic

# Programs are subject to change, you will be informed through the posters on the C.S.A. notice board.

## Advocacy pays off in Ontario, but the campaign continues —

### COU seeks end to higher fee for int'l graduate students

International graduate students should be paying the same tuition fees as their Canadian counterparts, says the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

In a brief submitted in August to the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario, also known as the Bovey Commission, COU states that high differential fees are deterring foreign graduate enrolment in the province and that "if the decline in graduate admissions of the past two years continues, Ontario universities will be in danger of losing any claim to membership in the international academic community."

COU supports "a return to a more equitable treatment of international students. Ideally, they should be charged the same tuition fees as Canadian students."

"The time has come for a thorough review of current government policy on visa student tuition fees," COU contends.

In previous papers on the question COU has proposed alleviating the financial burden on foreign graduate students by providing additional scholarship assistance, but this is the first time it or any other provincial organization has suggested abolition of the differential fee.

The Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA), a provincial government advisory body, has also expressed its concern that "a continuing trend of declining visa graduate enrolment will seriously damage Ontario's graduate and research enterprise."

The two groups have met with some success in their efforts to convince the provincial Ministry of Colleges and Universities, which imposed differential fees for foreign students in 1977. The following is a summary of their recent statements and the Minister's response to date.

In a November 1983 brief to OCUA, COU expressed its concern for the future of Ontario's graduate schools given the 41% drop in new foreign enrolments between 1981 and 1983, and made two recommendations designed to avert a further decline: 1) ~~the indefinite postponement of stage two of the government's fees policy, which by the government's reckoning would bring the foreign student fee to 66% of the full cost of their education (stage one, implemented in 1982-83, raised it to 50% by government estimates); and 2) a substantial increase in the number of Ontario Graduate Scholarships allocated to foreign students (at present only 50 go to them).~~<sup>1</sup>

Partly in response to the COU argument, OCUA also came out strongly in favor of increased financial assistance for international graduate students, although it proposed a different method of distribution. In a December 1983 advisory memorandum to Universities Minister Bette Stephenson, released to the public in June, OCUA suggested that the universities be permitted to use the fee differentials they collect to support needy foreign graduate students. In 1982-83, the government received \$5.9 million in differential fees, which under its current policy, are redistributed to the universities to be used solely for "eligible operating expenses."

In the same memorandum, OCUA rejected the idea of a "roll-back" in differential fees. Such a move would be "unacceptable," in OCUA's view, "not only because it would reduce institutional income, but also because it would fail to acknowledge the government's concerns about educational cost recovery from foreign graduate students." OCUA did not address the question in detail.

Nevertheless, like COU, OCUA recommended that the proposed second increase in differential fees for foreign graduates, already postponed once at its urging, in 1983-84, be dropped. Dr. Stephenson conveyed her acceptance of this advice, with the proviso that OCUA review the matter again in 1987, in a letter dated April 30, 1984: "I recognize the important role which visa graduate students play in our universities and have, therefore, decided not to implement the proposed second stage increase. Visa graduate fees will therefore be increased only at the rate at which domestic fees are adjusted." This was Dr. Stephenson's first public acknowledgment of the link between high tuition fees and declining enrolment in Ontario.<sup>2</sup>

She did not, however, accept the recommendation concerning financial assistance, dismissing it as inappropriate. "It should be noted," she added, "that universities are currently allowed to use the income from the 10% discretionary fee increase for any type of expenditure, including student assistance." ~~A number of universities already do so, or do not charge the discretionary fee to foreign students in the first place.~~

Deferral of the fee increase may prevent a further drastic fall in foreign graduate numbers; but this can't be assumed. For one thing, at \$4,850 for a two-term academic year in 1984-85, the fees are already prohibitively high for many students. For another, while a large proportion of those currently enrolled are covered by a "grandfather clause" because they registered before September 1, 1982, new students have no alternative but to pay full fees or enroll elsewhere.<sup>3</sup> COU's brief to the Bovey Commission notes that first-year international student enrolment at the undergraduate level in 1983-84 was down 30% from only two years earlier. The decline in new foreign graduate enrolment is even more severe, particularly at the doctoral level, with application data indicating a further drop in 1984-85. "In view of the enrolment decline which has occurred since 1981," says OCUA, "even if tuition fees remain the same and no additional financial assistance is provided, the number of visa graduate students registering in future seems likely to decline further."

Bette Stephenson's decision, while positive, does not address all of the issues. It is not clear what other specific steps the government is prepared to consider to maintain an international student presence in Ontario graduate schools.

(Reprinted from The Canada Bureau of International Education (CBIE) Newsletter, October 1984.

## VA T'ON VERS UNE GRÈVE GÉNÉRALE DES ÉTUDIANTS?

Le caucus de l'ANEQ, qui s'est tenu le samedi 27 octobre dernier, sur le dégel des prêts et bourses et la hausse des frais de scolarité, a été particulièrement agité.

C'est dans une ambiance mouvementée et surchauffée, parfois entrecoupée de jurons et d'éclats de rires sporadiques que s'est déroulé ce caucus mémorable. Malgré tout, la séance s'est déroulée avec beaucoup d'ordre, chacun attendant son tour pour prendre la parole. Les principaux points discordants étaient sur des questions de modalité. Tous les participants au caucus, délégués d'association membre et non membre de l'ANEQ, étaient d'accord finalement sur un point: ils étaient tous contre la hausse des frais de scolarité et le dégel des prêts et bourses.

Advenant le dégel des prêts et bourses, ont-ils dit, certains bénéficiaires ou prestataires seulement seront favorisés aux dépens de la grande masse des étudiants. Ces allocations seraient désormais perçues en fonction des étudiants qui auront embrassé des carrières axées sur le virage technologique selon les prévisions budgétaires de l'actuel ministre de l'Education, M. Bérubé.

Compte tenu aussi de ce nouveau projet de financement, certains secteurs de l'éducation seraient aussi laissés pour compte comme ceux de l'art, de la littérature, etc., jugés non rentables pour l'économie.

Les étudiants s'objectent à cette décision, car pour eux l'enseignement ne doit pas être conçu en termes de création d'emplois mais en termes de satisfaction pour les divers aspects de la société tout entière. Ainsi, disent-ils, les services sociaux disparaîtraient peut-être aussi si cette nouvelle formule était mise en application.

La question de l'endettement par les mécanismes des prêts et bourses était également considérée. Ce que le gouvernement vise à faire, disent les étudiants, c'est de réduire le nombre de diplômés chômeurs.

Mais ceci est aussi facteur d'endettement.

Les bourses seraient accordées à tout le monde, mais les prêts seraient plus élevés.

Actuellement il faut dix ans pour remettre les prêts. Avec le nouveau système, il en faudrait vingt.

Un autre point auquel les étudiants s'objectent, c'est la façon de payer ces prêts.

Il est stipulé que l'étudiant commence à rembourser ses

prêts six mois après avoir commencé à travailler.

Les étudiants voudraient par le fait même amender cette disposition qui empêcherait les chômeurs de répondre à leurs obligations à la date prévue.

Actuellement les étudiants contestent également les moyens mis en place par le gouvernement pour détecter ceux qui sont admissibles au système de prêts et bourses de ceux qui ne le sont pas. Ils les trouvent arbitraires. Jean-Pierre Paquette, de L'AGEUQAM, explique: Un étudiant reçoit 25\$ mensuellement comme allocation familiale. Le salaire de sa mère divorcée joint à celui de son père, également divorcé, totalise 60,000\$. Le gouvernement se fie sur les 60,000\$ et les allocations pour établir son barème d'accessibilité aux prêts et bourses au lieu de considérer seulement le revenu de la mère et celui de l'étudiant. Les étudiants trouvent ce système injuste.

En ce qui concerne la hausse des frais de scolarité, ils pensent que le gouvernement veut échelonner les frais au niveau de ceux bien connus de certaines provinces anglophones telles que l'Ontario.

Les étudiants auraient donc à payer entre 2000\$ et 4000\$ pour les frais de scolarité.

Il en coûterait même le double ou le triple aux étudiants étrangers, dont certains déboursent déjà jusqu'à près de 6000\$ pour des études qui pourraient être considérées désormais comme un luxe.

Or il est démontré que les étudiants étrangers ne sont pas nécessairement riches pour la plupart et que leurs parents font d'énormes sacrifices pour les envoyer décrocher un bon diplôme hors de leur pays.

Il est aussi reconnu que les étudiants étrangers constituent un investissement pour le Canada à court et à long terme. A court terme, parce qu'ils injectent des millions chaque année dans l'économie canadienne et à long terme parce qu'à leur retour dans leur pays ils seront considérés comme les ambassadeurs de la culture canadienne dans leur pays d'origine.

Donc les étudiants ne veulent pas non plus de hausses de frais de scolarité. même si le gouvernement prétend qu'il ne s'agit pas de hausse mais d'indexation au coût de la vie.

La situation est désormais claire. Les étudiants sont unanimement contre ces changements qui viendraient chambarder leur vie d'étudiant à tout point de vue. Mais ils hésitent sur les façons d'aborder les questions pour leur faire face.

Une première résolution semble avoir fait le consensus auprès de la majorité des représentants des associations membres

et non membres.

Il s'agit de répliquer à une lettre de M. Bérubé parue dans la Presse. Cette lettre serait tout à fait succincte, laconique et non révélatrice des moyens futures que les étudiants pensent mettre en branle pour contrecarrer les plans d'invasion des carrières étudiantes par le ministre Bérubé.

Ils se contenteraient dans cette lettre de mentionner qu'ils sont unanimement contre le dégel des prêts et bourses et la hausse des frais de scolarité.

Un système a été mis sur pied pour faciliter la distribution de la lettre aux médias. François Giguère, du comité exécutif de l'ANEQ, a entériné la décision des membres à savoir que les cégeps seraient écartées de la première phase de distribution parce que les associations universitaires pouvaient contracter avec plus de facilité leurs membres.

Toutefois les étudiants se seraient entendus sur le concours d'au moins cinq associations universitaires pour déclencher le processus d'envoi des lettres aux médias.

A partir du moment où on serait assuré de la participation minimale de cinq universités, chaque association signerait et enverrait la lettre à la Presse.

Le mot d'ordre devrait partir de McGill et le télex envoyé aux médias pour pouvoir paraître le lundi matin plutôt que le samedi, qui est un jour d'achalandage où la Presse est bourré d'articles de toutes sortes.

Cette première difficulté écartée, il restait la possibilité d'une manifestation comme moyen de pression, que les étudiants conçoivent non pas en termes d'une finalité en soi mais d'un moyen pour atteindre un but.

Le but encoure une fois est d'empêcher le dégel des prêts et bourses et la hausse des frais de scolarité.

Certains craignaient une réaction du gouvernement si la manifestation était planifiée de longue date. D'autre craignaient par contre un échec si elle était organisée dans un court laps de temps.

De part et d'autre on avait peut-être raison. Et pour y penser définitivement, une autre réunion a été projetée en novembre. Ce délai était pour permettre à toutes les associations d'aller chercher des mandats clairs auprès de leurs membres.

Les principaux points en litige qui ont soulevé au cours de ce caucus des commentaires parfois ponctués de sarcasmes et de rires étaient en général les suivants:

1. la manifestation prévue pour décembre
2. la déclaration commune rédigée à l'intention

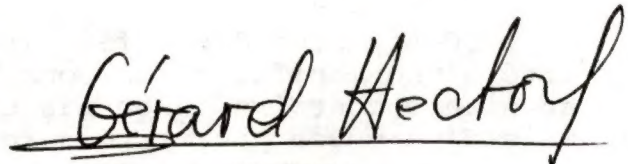
3. la tenue d'une autre réunion en novembre pour élucider le premier point.

Finalement, Robert Comeau du Cégep de Montmorency a suggéré qu'aucune des associations dites nationales fédératives ou autres telles que l'ANEQ, la RAEU, la FECUM, la FAEQ, etc., ne patronnerait à elle seule les futures démarches et qu'elles devraient être globalement intentées pour éviter aussi des procès d'intention. Qui plus est, dans le cas de la lettre à envoyer aux médias, ces grandes associations étaient même exclues de toute juridiction sur la question laissant seulement aux associations membres et non membres telles que CUSA, AGEUQUAM, etc., le soin d'intervenir.

Si d'ici janvier la situation n'est pas débloquée, tant au niveau gouvernemental qu'au niveau étudiant, le risque de grève planerait désormais au-dessus de toutes les têtes dont certaines tomberont peut-être par la force des choses.

Christian Yaccarini et Jean-Pierre Paquette agissaient en tant que représentants de l'AGEUQAM. François Desrosiers représentait la Concordia University Student Association. François Giguère, coordonnateur de la région de Montréal de l'ANEQ, était l'animateur de caucus. Jean-Marie Vézina était le coordonnateur de caucus universitaire pour l'ANEQ. Robert Comeau représentait le cégep de Montmorency.

Il y avait également des représentants d'autres universités telles que McGill, de même que quelques absences.

  
Gérard HECTOR

29 octobre 1984